



## **FREDERICKSBURG GREEN PARTY MEETING MINUTES 1/31/2018**

In attendance: Sean Imanian, Chair  
Gerald Anderson, Treasurer  
\_\_\_\_\_, member

### 1. The Fredericksburg Clean Government Act report.

- We can't pass rank choice voting locally but we can only do it on the state level.
  - There is a bill in the state committees right now that will allow local governments to pass their own rank choice voting if they would like. This bill might be voted on by March.
  - Look at Gerald Anderson's report below in Appendix A.
- Our bill needs to go through some more edits.
  - The edited bill from last meeting just needs to be typed up. Sean Imanian will email before Feb the 26th.
  - If you have any questions or add on just let me know before the 26th.
  - Our bill should be done by our 28th meeting but we may want to postpone further action until we see what the state does with the rank choice bill. We should know by March if it passes. We will talk about it more at 28th FEB meeting.

### 2. A local green party news paper.

- Publish the paper once a month.
- 4 pages?
- Report on local news, events, Fred government, state news, and some national news?
- Web page?
- Sources will be on the paper
- Small paper for events too
- must be 100% recyclable paper and must be noticeable on the paper
- Name of the paper ideas.
  - The movement
  - Workers paper
  - Insurrection
  - Radical News

- Far side
- Freethinking News
- The people
- We Stand
- Deep News
- Fredericksburg green peppers

3. Donations for FRED Green party.

- Gerald Anderson will see if they can sit up a monthly donation for active members to save up money for events.
- Get box for meetings to ask at beginning of meeting or after for donations. Same for events.

4. Need to make plans for Earth day events.

- Earth day is on April 22.

5. Need to make plans for Multicultural Fair at UMW

- It's on April 14th 10am - 5pm

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**APPENDIX A**

Gerald Anderson Report on visit to Richmond to advocate for Ranked Choice Voting. (1/26/18)

Great experience. First course of business, we met with Nick Freitas who is patron for HB 553 which was introduced to the house calling for ranked choice voting to be used in all elections except the presidential. He indicated that the bill had not made it on the agenda for the subcommittee and would not be considered that day. Nick had had discussions with Mark Cole and it was decided that the bill would be changed. Instead of mandating ranked choice voting for all state and local elections, an amended bill would be introduced which would permit municipalities and counties to use ranked choice voting for their local elections and it would be optional-----not mandated. In other words, counties and municipalities would have the option of using ranked choice voting. This would in essence allow local governments to pilot the method and allow the state registrars to get acquainted with the method before mandating it at the state level. Therefore, if this passes, the city of Fredericksburg and the surrounding counties could opt for using ranked choice voting.

The rest of the day, we divided up and met with delegates or their legislative assistants focusing on those on the Privileges and Elections committee first since the bill has to make it out of this committee to make it to a vote in the entire House. We additionally focused on those on Subcommittee #2 of the Privileges and Election Committee since that is the subcommittee to whom the bill has been assigned. Subcommittee #2 consists of Leftwich (R HD-78 )(Chairman), Habeeb (R HD-8 ), Landes (R HD-25 ), Lindsey (D HD-90 ), O'Quinn(R HD-5 ), and Turpin (D HD-85).

The meetings went well. A couple of delegates said they vote no on most bills of this type but most were very receptive including Mark Cole's legislative aide (Rachael Rutherford, who knew

who I was as soon as she saw me) One of the delegates (Habeeb) who indicated he does not support these bills did not know that Nick Freitas was the patron. He mentioned that he and Nick lived in the same house in Richmond and Nick could convince him that night as to why he should vote yes on the bill, so that was a positive.

We also met with assistants for some of the senators on the Privileges and Election committee on the Senate side since we will have to get them to write and patron a bill on that side should this bill make it through the house. Bryce Reeves is on that committee, and we spoke with his assistant. We also spoke directly with Senator Vogel, who Elizabeth seems to know very well. Elizabeth asked if she would be a sponsor on the Senate side and she seemed quite receptive.

Helping us throughout the day was a consultant on implementation of ranked choice voting who drove up from North Carolina. I had received an email from Mark Cole a week or so ago about his thoughts on the bill and he was concerned about implementation costs. So FairVote VA had the consultant do a complete inventory of voting machines in Virginia and determined that more than 90% of the machines were already "ranked choice voting" capable and that the cost of converting would be minimal----just like flipping a switch. The other 10% were machines that some districts had that were more than 10 years old and at least one of these districts is getting appropriations to get new ones this year.

It is currently anticipated that the bill will be up for debate at the subcommittee level next week.

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